

CHAPTER-V



CONCLUSION

In conclusion we can say that any understanding of industry in Baroda State prior to Indian independence has to be contextualized both in terms of the general industrial scenario in the Indian subcontinent during the period as well as the specific dimensions of the social and economic structure of Baroda State as it was shaped through various initiatives of Sayajirao III. We can conclude that great progress in industrialization was made in Baroda State and that these developments were both the cause and consequence of the enlightened social and economic policies of Sayajirao III. This led the Baroda State to be considered as a model princely state. It challenged the prevalent British idea that princely states were backward, poorly administered areas in contrast to the more progressive administrative policies of British colonial India.

One of the important findings of my present study is that the widely held idea that the Indian subcontinent was poorly developed industrially does not accurately reflect the situation in India during the period under study. There were many industries that had developed in India. My study concludes that the policies of the East India Companies were chiefly responsible for the decline of the industries in the country. Therefore many industries did not develop in a satisfactory manner. In the same way the commercial policy of the East India Company helped the Indian industries to a certain extent, but

overall their influence was detrimental and resulted in the skewed growth of industries in India. In spite of these adverse conditions, Indian industry gradually developed.

Textile industries include wool, silk, cotton and jute was well developed all over the country. Silk weaving centers had been established everywhere in the country. Some of the mills that were working in a substantial manner were jute and cotton mills. The easy and plentiful availability of raw materials was a significant contributory factor in the successful functioning of these mills. Subsidiary industries like cotton-ginning and jute pressing were highly developed.

The other major industries that also developed were the iron and steel company, sugar industry, paper mills, the glass industry, cement industry, match industry, the engineering industry tanning industry, the coal and mining industry etc. All these industries worked satisfactorily. Flour milling as well as sugar pressing and refining were well developed. In addition, there were factories that manufactured fine goods and handicrafts of a high quality. Plantations and plantation based industry were also established through colonial initiatives. In plantations, indigo, coffee, tea were the important industries in the Indian subcontinent. One important feature of plantation industries was the vast number of labour engaged. All these plantation industries provided good income for the plantation owners. Industries provided the employment and other facilities.

The First World War affected the Indian industries. Economic activities were affected during the war in several different ways. All the essential supplies were cut off.

Subsequently, due to the curbs on importing equipment, industries did not expand, only those goods that were required for military purposes were produced during the war period. There was a general rise. Cash crops were grown in large quantity. Prices of certain imports like kerosene, cloth, sugar, metals and salt shot up and the production of food stuffs fell with the rise in prices of cash crops. The profit from industrial products increased rapidly. At the same time it must be noted that there was keen demand in the European countries for the primary products of India.

The Second World War created a different picture. Major economic changes took place, prices rose, employment increased and companies expanded. Many new industries developed. Demands for raw material increased, and scientific and industrial research grew exponentially. The Board of Scientific and Industrial Research was established. The economic development changed the condition of the country. The army clothing factory produced its war planned output. People got employment in the factories. The Government encouraged manufacturers with schemes for training technicians and also established many institutions for this in different parts of the country. Industrial conferences were held at different places.

My analysis of the industrial situation in Baroda State shows that during the reign of the Gaekwads, industries developed very slowly before 1875. After 1875 the growth of industry improved. In the reign of Sayajirao III the state developed very rapidly. He traveled many times to European countries and this had a deep impact on him. After getting an idea of economic growth of the advanced countries of Europe and America he

understood the importance of industrial and technical economic progress of his state and of the country in general. His travels abroad, both in the state and in European countries, broadened his perspective. His foreign travels gave him the opportunity to learn the culture and progress of eastern and western countries alike. His visits enriched and broadened his vision and increased in him a thirst for knowledge. He made the good use of his new knowledge of education and industry. I have shown how these aspects can be seen in his official orders, administrative and other reforms. Sayajirao III's policies can be recognized as broadly humanist and his humanist thinking can be demonstrated through a study of his writings and letters. His essential humanism led him to maintain good relationships with the ruler of other Indian states and to focus his attention on progress in thought, art and science.

I have argued in my thesis that Sayajirao's III set up a powerful agenda of social and economic reform to enable the welfare of the welfare of his people. He embarked on an ambitious project of modernization and industrialization. However, he recognized that that without proper or general education, the people would not understand or take an intelligent interest in the various aspects of his progressive policies and reforms that he intended to undertake. His first reforms therefore were focused on education. There were very few schools in the state at that time. He established many schools. In 1893, free and compulsory primary education was introduced in the Amreli district and it covered the whole state by 1906. One of the most remarkable provisions of his educational policy was the inclusion of the backward classes and women in its ambit. He also made ample provisions to impact industrial and technical education in the state.

During his reign he changed and solved the problems of agriculture by carrying out the survey and measurements and tried to improve the classification of lands. By giving concession and loans to the agriculturists, he promoted their progress. He also undertook steps to provide for the industrial and technical training in the state. He established, beside the state railway, the State Railway workshop (G.B.S work shop), distinct industrial schools at Petlad, Patan and Amreli, the J.N.Tata Hunnarshala, Navsari and Chimnabai Industrial Home Baroda among others. Training centers were established by him. He had sanctioned some concessions and financial loans to help industries. He also helped industrial workers to improve their condition. When he commissioned studies to examine problems arising from state aided factories. These studies greatly impacted him, leading him to promote the merchant and traders by adopting more commercially productive policies.

Maharani Chimnabai, the wife of Maharaja Sayajirao III, was also known for her contribution to the state. She had traveled widely both in India and abroad with Maharaja. These travels widened her outlook and she began to cultivate interest in music, arts, literature, politics and various sports. She had taken keen interest in raising the status of the women of Baroda. Her contribution to women's progress in the state of Baroda is evident in the various institutes that she founded. She had inspired, encouraged and established these institutions not only to provide training but also to teach women to become financially independent, so that their economic condition could improve; it

would allow them to use their talent and keep themselves busy. As a consequence, they played an important role in the family as earning persons.

In 1882 Sayajirao found that the Adatra can be used as a port so he set about developing it. Okha Port became one of the most important ports of the Baroda state. Establishment of the port improved the transportation facility, which was helpful to trade. The raw material and manufactured material such as cement, salt and timber could be transported by ships. Transport between other European countries become easy because of the establishment of Adatra. Prior to the development of these ports , the are was underdeveloped and impoverished; agricultural development was difficult. But after the establishment of Okha Port development took place in those areas, people got employment in the various sectors. The useful mineral lime stone was found and as a result, the production of cement began. Within few years, salt works and pearl fisheries also developed, due to suitable transport facilities. Due to this rapid development, the economic condition not only of the state but also of country's import and export increased.

Baroda had great importance as far as the railway interest of the British was concerned, because Baroda was an important centre that connected important areas of western and central India. In my thesis I have shown how trade became easy, and how the establishment of rail line throughout the state connected with trade centre improved the economic condition of the state. The transportation of material such as cotton to the factory and the manufactured goods became easy. People also got employment and moved towards the factories, the railway was also helpful to the passengers. The gross

earning increased. The technical training scheme was also helpful to the people. All facilities provided by the railway company to the people of the state changed their social and economical life.

Prior to the reform initiatives of Sayajirao III the banking system was not progressive in Baroda state. But after 1875 new developments took place and the banking system was modernized. The institution of banking also began to function in a better way. It took a new form; it passed from the control of private players to that of the Government. After taking over control in the hand of government, the funds were utilized for the overall development of the people and a new middle class emerged. The establishment of the Bank of Baroda was a very important achievement for the Baroda state. Within few years it established branches at different places and provided financial help to the people. Agriculturists, merchants and traders got loans from the Bank of Baroda. I have argued, therefore, that banking emerged as a very powerful factor in the growth and development of the Baroda state.

At the beginning of the 19th century the state of trade and industries of the Baroda state was very poor. There were only 44 cotton-ginning factories and only one cotton spinning mill in the whole state. To encourage the technical skill Kala Bhavan which imparted technical education, was established. As a result, large numbers of students get technical education in the state and also set up the foreign industries for training at Baroda state. Gradually industries spread in the state. In 1913, an Advisory Committee was appointed to plan and oversee the development of commerce, industry and agriculture. This

committee studied the economic problems and suggested solutions for them. Committee proposed developing the railway, banking, harbours, construction of roads and the opening of experimental firms. This Committee proved to be very advantageous for the state. It began holding exhibitions in the state and other parts of the country to encourage artisan to improve their talent and production levels, finished goods were sent to the exhibitions held in European countries.

The Maharani Woolen Mills was one of the most important mills in the country that was established in the state. it is not only provided finished goods but also helped the people who were engaged in this occupation. Handloom weaving in Gandevi and Baroda was a traditionally established industry with a large number of skilled artisans engaged in the industry. However their own businesses could not compete successfully with mills. The establishment of mills in the Baroda State gave them avenues for employment. Side by side, the state supported the handloom industry by arranging for handloom demonstration of improved handlooms, by conducted various kinds of experiments with a view to improving quality of the product in various schools of art, by introducing new methods, devices and classes to train the weavers.

The Diamond Jubilee Trust played an important part in reconstruction activities in the state. The Diamond Jubilee Cottage Industries Institute was founded in 1936. It extended the efforts of the state Chimnabai Stree Udyagalaya to provide training to middle and backward class women in dyeing and calico printing. The government sanctioned scholarships for the women to promote them. After the liquidation of the Maharani Mills

Ltd., it was sold off and restarted under the name of Shree Dinesh Mills Ltd. This Mill has functioned successfully right upto contemporary times. The government also supported village industries to encourage the villagers to continue their occupations. Industries related to hides, skin and hard materials from the animal kingdom were supported in order to help the people to improve their economic condition.

Tanning work improved by holding demonstrations and classes at different places, classes were held at Kalabhavan for artisans who were engaged with lacquer work industry, cloths dying and printing by Bhavsars and Chhipas appeared all over the state.

To popularize and spread poultry development centers had been organized in the state. To fulfill the necessity of providing pure milk to the palaces, a dairy farm at Makarpura established in 1925. The pasteurizing plant installed in this dairy closed down but after some years Baroda Dairy was established in Baroda. Some of the other factories started in the state such as Messer's Ashwin Industries Ltd. progressed rapidly and even now it continues to function profitably. Metal works of Visnagar also spread successfully and the vessels manufactured there were exported abroad. To promote metal works, classes were held across the state, many students took advantage of it. The Sayaji Metal Works Company manufactured agricultural implements, cast iron articles, machines for road building and bleaching machines for the development in various industries.

Fisheries in Dwarka, Velan and Kosamba improved the trade and commerce in the state.

Chemical works like Tata Chemicals Ltd., Mithapur, the Alembic Chemicals Works Co.Ltd., Baroda, Sarabhai Chemical Works, Baroda manufactured a number of chemicals

in the Baroda state. These successfully made Baroda one of the main centre of chemical industries. Apart from these, glass manufacture was promoted through the holding of demonstrations and the Alembic Glass Industry Ltd. Was established in the Baroda state. It functioned successfully. The cement factory at Dwarka also worked successfully and it become the main centre of trade. It utilized huge deposits of limestone available locally. The availability of transportation and the government support made this factory develop rapidly. All these industries developed in the Baroda state were the basic industries for further development.

An innovative aspect of industry was tied to jails in Baroda state. Prisoners were encouraged to manufacture various products, and were taught various skills during imprisonment. Prisoners manufactured goods like clothes, carpet, cane baskets, boxes furniture etc. and many handicrafts industries thrived in the jail workshops. The state furniture factory was another innovative area which was very productive. The Okha Salt Works Ltd. was established and became extremely profitable. This company opened a new chapter in the economic life of the state. It provided employment to large numbers of people. It continues to function in the present day. Other factories such as sugar factories also did well. Gandevi Sugar Factory in Gandevi was the oldest factory in the Baroda state. The sugar industry benefited from initiatives to improve soil quality and other experiments to improve sugar cane yield. Moreover, the farm loans and concessions sanctioned by government provided financial support for the farmers. Consequently farmers were able to produce target quantity of sugar cane which enabled the successful functioning of sugar mills.

When Baroda state merged in to Gujarat state that time industries developed and open the way for the new establishment of industries. The agricultural farms were working and banking system also well developed. Therefore, after 1950 many industries could be established and other old industries expanded.

In conclusion, we can say that at the time of independence a wide range of industries including civic infrastructures in Baroda state were well developed owing to the progressive industrialization policy that had been embarked upon by Maharaja Sayajirao III. The significant feature of his policy of industrialization was that it was interwoven with educational reforms. Great emphasis was laid on training the workers for the modern factories that were being set up. Consequently, his industrial policy not only led to the creation of substantial wealth but also modernized the laboring population, generated employment and improved the quality of life of the state's poorest citizens.